



The Check Is in the Mail

March 2007

As a special treat this month, two of our cc players, 2004 Absolute champion IM Corky Schakel and prolific Expert William Jemty work together to annotate their draw from the 2002 Golden Knights Final.

GAME OF THE MONTH

This game has it all – an opening TN, a Queen sacrifice, a difficult endgame, and music to dance to. Music ? Read on.

DUTCH DEFENSE (A95)

White: William Jemty (2150)

Black: Corky Schakel (2395)

2002 Golden Knights Final

Notes by Jemty (J) and Schakel (S)

(J): This was the eighth time I've played IM Corky Schakel. I've managed two draws in the past. The game also followed my first encounter with Corky for twelve moves. Big mistake!

**1.d4 f5 2.c4 Nf6 3.Nf3 e6 4.g3 Be7
5.Bg2 0-0 6.0-0 d5 7.Nc3 c6 8.Qc2 Ne4
9.Ne5 Nd7 10.Nxe4 Nxe5 11.Nd2 Nf7
12.f4 a5**

(J): In a 2000 GK game Corky played
12...Nd6 13. c5 Ne4 14. Nxe4 dxe4 15.

e3 Qd5? and White soon held a clear advantage but Black managed to wiggle his way out to a draw by perpetual on Move 39.

13.c5:

(S): This move releases the pressure on the d5 square and sets up a target on c5, so I was happy with Black's game.

**13...b6 14.cxb6 Qxb6 15.Nb3 Nd6
16.e3 Ba6 17.Rd1 Nb7 18.Bd2 a4
19.Nc1 Rfc8 20.Bc3 c5**

(J): Seeing my position deteriorating and having no doubts as to Corky's ability to push me off the board, I take drastic action.

21.Qxa4!?

(S): This looked like an exchange of Queen without enough compensation, so again I was happy.

21...Be2 22.Qxa8 Rxa8 23.Nxe2

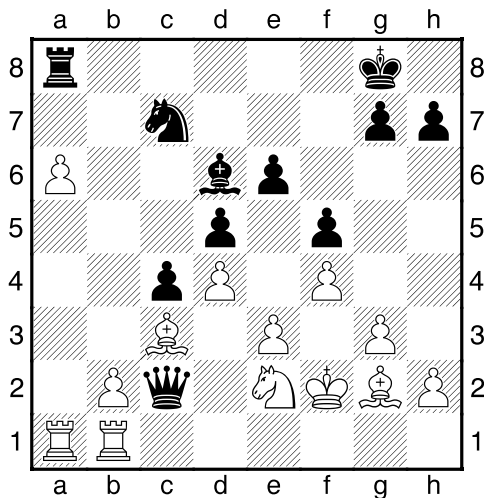
(J): White has gotten a Rook, Knight, and outside passed Pawn for the Queen. Black still has the queenside initiative but White hopes to set up an invulnerable position.

**23...c4 24.Kf2 Nd6 25.a4 Qb3 26.a5
Nb5 27.Rdb1 Bb4**

(J): The queenside is getting awfully congested. I wonder if there was something better in here for Corky.

(S): The idea was merely to simplify, trading Bishops which may have been fine, until I ...didn't.

28.a6 Nc7 29.Nc1 Qc2+ 30.Ne2 Bd6?!



(J): This game will go on another 50 moves, but it appears this may be where Black missed his last chance to win: 30...Bxc3 saddling White with the more difficult Pawn to defend on c3 I think was best.

(S): It took a long time to convince myself that this is now a draw, but it looks like Bill's 21. Qxa4!/? worked out. Maybe I helped, but I fully expected to win from here.

(J): When the game ended, Corky said if anyone can find a win for Black from this point on, he'd like to know about it.

31.b3! cxb3 32.Rb2 Qd3 33.Rxb3 Rxa6 34.Rxa6 Qxa6 35.Bb4 Bxb4

(J): I wonder if Corky should have gone 35...Qb6 here winning my Rook for his two minor pieces after 36. Bxd3 Qxb3 37. Bxc2. White would then have the two B+N vs. the Q, statistically a material advantage but I think Corky may have been able to open the position like he did below, but without my annoying Rook to contend with.

(S): Of course I still thought the Q would win. The term is "fat, dumb, and happy."

36.Rxb4 Nb5 37.Bf1 Nd6 38.Rb8+ Kf7 39.Nc3 Qa5 40.Rb3 Nc4 41.Rb7+ Kf6 42.Bxc4 dxc4

(J): Black has achieved his goal, an outside passed Pawn. White's position is hanging by a thread.

(S): It turns out to be a very sturdy thread!

43.Ne2

This Knight won't move again for 28 moves, but from its post on e2 holds White's position together.

43...c3 44.Rb8! c2 45.Rc8!

(J): Blockade!

45...Qd2 46.h4 g6 47.Rf8+ Ke7 48.Rc8 Kd7 49.Rc5

(J): White can't let the Black King cross the c-file, nor can Black drive the Rook off it.

49...h6 50.Kf1 Ke7 51.Kf2 Qd1 52.Rc3 Kf6 53.Rc6 g5

(J): Stymied on the queenside, Corky tries to open the kingside.

54.hxg5+ hxg5 55.fxg5+ Kg7 56.Rc7+ Kg6 57.Rc8

(J): Time for a musical interlude. Corky compared this game's King-Rook dances to a song at this point.

(S): Somewhere around here I mentioned that the game was starting to remind me of the former Australian

National Anthem, and Bill delighted me by finding the lyrics to "Waltzing Matilda." I thought the Q would win, but of course, the waltz had to end.

Once a jolly swagman camped by a Billabong
Under the shade of a Coolabah tree
And he sang as he watched and waited
till his billy boiled
"Who'll come a-waltzing Matilda with me?"

Down come a jumpbuck to drink at the water hole
Up jumped a swagman and grabbed him with glee
And he sang as he stowed him away in his tucker bag
"You'll come a-waltzing Matilda with me."

"Up rode the Squatter a riding his thoroughbred
Up rode the trooper -- one, two, three
"Where's that jumpbuck you've got in your tucker bag?"
"You'll come a-waltzing Matilda with me."

But the swagman he up and jumped in the water hole
Drowning himself by the Coolabah tree,
And his ghost may be heard as it sings in the Billabong
"Who'll come a-waltzing Matilda with me?"

57...Kxg5 58.Rg8+ Kf6

(J): The King can't penetrate because if he gets to h3, White can create a mating net.

59.Rf8+ Ke7

(J): One last try at the queenside.

60.Rc8 Kd6 61.Rc5

(J): If Black's King gets to d5, White loses here.

61...e5!

(J): Black's next try to break White's position.

62.Rc8 e4!?

(J): Releases the tension in the position and allows the Knight to find a new home on f4. But did Black have anything better?

(S): I don't think so, but would be glad to hear from anyone who can improve on this line. The N+R+P protect each other perfectly and blockade the Black Pawn.

**63.Rc3 Ke6 64.Rc6+ Kf7 65.Rc7+ Kf6
66.Rc6+ Kg5 67.Rc8 Qh1 68.Rxc2 Kg4
69.Rc3 Qh2+ 70.Kf1 Kf3**

(J): Black has penetrated finally, but the Knight comes to the rescue.

71.Ng1+ Kxg3 72.Ne2+ Kg4

(J): The King is forced to retreat.

**73.Rb3 Qh3+ 74.Ke1 Qg2 75.d5 Qf3
76.Nf4!**

(J): White's newest blockade. The Knight protects d5, the Rook protects e3, and all Black can do is harry the White King with his Queen.

**76...Qh1+ 77.Kd2 Kf3 78.Kc2 Qh2+
79.Kc1 Kg4 80.Rc3 Qa2 DRAW**

(S): It may or may not have been possible for Black to collect the d-Pawn, but the blockade still holds. What a development!

WEB WATCH

I would like to recommend a well-constructed webserver for those of you who would like an international flavor to your correspondence games.

www.SchemingMind.com is an excellent young organization. With around 2,000 active members, it offers a wide variety of chess activities. Besides standard chess, Fischer Random Chess is offered as well as other chess variants.

The graphics are great, and for the fanciful, illustrations by Tenniel of Alice in Wonderland fame enliven the screen.

But it is correspondence chess that is the main attraction. All games are recorded on the server, which means there is no need for bookkeeping. The server does all the work except thinking. You are notified when your opponent has moved, messages can be relayed to your opponent, time is kept by the server, and a clear diagram of the position with your opponent's move appears on your screen (all very similar to the Walter Muir tournaments offered by USCF).

You may play as a guest for free at the beginning, but you are limited to one new tournament every six weeks. Full membership is only \$20 a year, which gives you unlimited access to tournaments and team matches. The club has at least one GM (Players play under handles, and so sometimes their anonymity hides their titles). SIM John Knudsen recently gave a ten-game simul on line.

Also offered, though I did not experience it, is a learning resource for

beginners to cc called the "Game Explorer." The Game Explorer helps the visitor follow recognized opening theory and at the same time receive written instructions on how this theory applies to their games.

This is an excellent site and worthy of your investigation. Future plans for the site include establishing links with ICCF and SchemingMind plans on entering a team in the upcoming ICCF Champion's League. If you like the idea of server play, go now to www.SchemingMind.com and enjoy!

Youth will be served

A,J, Kain has a question for the record books – What is the youngest age anyone has achieved a CC rating of 2200+? Any answers out there?

FEBRUARY WINNERS

SWIFT QUAD

John Badger 06SQ08 6-0
Wilbur Tseng 06SQ11 5-1
Michael Burrus 06SQ09 5 ½-½
Kendrick Aung 06SQ07 6-0

JOHN COLLINS TOURNAMENT

Damon Reed 04CC31 4-2
Vladimir Pashkov 05CA02 4 ½-1 ½
Blair Eakin 05CA07 5-1
Morgan Murray-Miller 05CME23 5 ½-½

TROPHY QUAD

Marshall Whitecotton 04QA34 5-1

WALTER MUIR (WEBSERVER)

Jonathan Lee 06W18 5 ½-½
Richard Higgins 06W23 6-0

WEBSERVER EVENTS

The 17th Olympiad will be the first Olympiad to be played entirely using the ICCF webserver, rather than postal or email.

You have got to try this method of play. True, some of you will always like the slower postal play. That is part of the allure of correspondence play. USCF has the Walter Muir eQuads played on the webserver. Enter now! You will experience the future of cc play!

Tom Haggard: "I LOVE the ICCF webserver. No more postal or straight e-mail for me!!!" Tom is not alone – I have received more favorable comments on the Walter Muir webserver event than any other choice. Sign up now for the cc experience that is changing the way cc is played!

Want confirmation of your results?

Simply send your request by email – I will be glad to confirm receipt of your results. If you want a request by US post, include a self addressed stamped postcard or envelope, and I will be glad to confirm receipt of your post.

Quote: In addition to the allurements common to all chess, correspondence chess has five values in its own right; it is chatty; it encourages reading, collateral to the game while in progress; it is likely to be accurate chess within one's limitations, unimpaired by the

excitements of face-to-face play; it does not absorb two men's time while one man lucubrates; and finally, it gears into life as a servant of our leisure, filling the chinks of time, between chores with enjoyable detachment -- W. E. Napier

CLASSIFIED ADS

LEARN CHESS BY MAIL ! Lessons given by mail, telephone, ICC – many different ways. I specialize in players rated 800-2100 who would like to improve their game. Contact me for information. Alex Dunne, 324 West Lockhart St., Sayre, PA 18840 or alex.dunne@cqservices.com

I looked all over the Internet and couldn't find it so here it is for your information – the complete list of United States Correspondence chess Champions!

UNITED STATES CORRESPONDENCE CHESS CHAMPIONS

1974-6 Anthony Cayford
1976-8 Eugene Martinovsky
1978-80 Victor Contoski;
1980-2 Curtis Carlson
1982-5 Paul Fielding, Ken Plesset
1985-7 Robert Reynolds
1987-9 David Taylor;
1989-1991 Eugene Martinovsky, Mark Lonoff;
1991-3 Stephen Jones;
1993-5 Jon Edwards
1995-7 Stephen Jones, Tim Murray, Robin Smith
1997-2000 Konstantin Dolgitsger, Craig Jones
2000-2 Robin Smith
2002-5 Randy Schmidt
2005- Edward Duliba

2006 Absolute Championship

The 2006 Absolute championship is underway. It's a strong tournament (as always!) with a few new names and some weathered veterans. Leading the pack is two-time champ Ted Brandhorst at 2444. Ted is challenged in rating order by Laurence Coplin (2414) Robert Jacobs (2414) Corky Schakel (2402) Walter Brower (2390) Kristo Mietinnen (2369) William Gray (2363) Gordon Everitt (2358) Abe Wilson (2352) Eric Fischvogt (2316) Joseph Shipman (2283) James Rhodes (2242) and Laurence Anderson (2231). This will be the last year that the Absolute will be conducted as a postal event. Next year it will either be email or webservice..

THE RATINGS ARE COMING! THE RATINGS ARE COMING!

As of 26 February I have input back ratings up to August 13, 2006. These ratings will be online very soon. I expect to have them all caught up with crosstables before May. More as this develops.

Outstanding pressure game!

SEMI-SLAV DEFENSE (D43)

White: Jim Skeels (2413)

Black: Doug Eckert (2384)

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1.Nf3 d5 2.d4 Nf6 3.c4 c6 4.Nc3 e6 5.Bg5 h6 6.Bh4 dxc4 7.e4 g5 8.Bg3 b5 9.Be2 Bb7 10.h4 g4 11.Ne5 h5 12.0-0 Nbd7 13.Qc2 Nxe5 14.Bxe5 Bg7 15.Bg3 Qxd4 16.Rfd1 Qb6 17.a4 a5 18.Rd6 Qc5 19.e5 Nd5 20.Ne4 Qb4 21.f3 bxa4 22.fxg4 hxg4 23.Bxg4 Qb3 24.Qf2 Qe3

25.Qxe3 Nxe3 26.Bh3 c5 27.Nxc5 Bd5 28.Nxa4 Bf8 29.Nb6 Rb8 30.Nxd5 Nxd5 31.Rc6 Rxb2 32.Rxc4 Rb4 33.Rc8+ Kd7 34.Rc2 Rb5 35.Bg4 Bc5+ 36.Kh2 Bb6 37.Bf3 Ke7 38.h5 Rb4 39.Rc6 f5 40.exf6+ Kxf6 41.Re1 Be3 42.Rd6 Rb3 43.Bh4+ Ke5 44.Ra6 Ra3 45.Bg4 Kd4 46.Rxe6 Rh6 47.Re8 Bf4+ 48.Kg1 Kc5 49.Bf2+ Kc6 50.Rc8+ Bc7 51.Rc1+ Kb7 52.Rg8 Bb6 53.Rg7+ Kb8 54.Rc8# 1-0

A little pin can break a balloon or a game. Here it ends White's attack..

FRENCH DEFENSE (C18)

White: James Ellis (1797)

Black: David Short (1847)

2006 Golden Knights

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e5 c5 5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.bxc3 Ne7 7.Qg4 0-0 8.Nf3 Nbc6 9.Bd3 f5 10.exf6 Rxf6 11.Bg5 Rf7 12.Bxe7 Rxe7 13.Qh4 h6 14.0-0 c4 15.Bg6 Bd7 16.Rfe1 Be8 17.Bxe8 Rxe8 18.Qh3 Qd6 19.Ne5 Nxe5 20.Rxe5 Re7 21.a4 Rf8 22.Rae1 Rf6 23.g4 Qc6 24.a5 Qb5 25.g5 hxg5 26.Rxe6 Qd7 0-1

White throws hammer, tong, and sickle at Black in the opening, Black returns the favor in the middlegame. There is no endgame.

FRENCH DEFENSE (A00)

White: John Badger (1917)

Black: Anthony Kain (0000)

2007 Express Tournament

1.Nc3 Nf6 2.e4 Nc6 3.d4 d5 4.e5 Nd7 5.e6 fxe6 6.Nf3 g6 7.h4 Bg7 8.h5 e5 9.Ng5 Nxd4 10.hxg6 hxg6 11.Rxh8+ Bxh8 12.Nxd5 Nc5 13.Ne3 Bf6 14.Nh3 Bxh3 15.gxh3 e4 16.Bg2 Qd7 17.c3 Nf3+ 18.Bxf3 exf3 19.Qxf3 Nd3+ 20.Kf1 0-0-0 21.Qg4 e6 22.Qe4 Bg5 23.b3 Rf8 24.f3 Nxc1 25.Rxc1 Rf4 0-1